# Student’s Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## TIPS: Grading the US Education System

Dear Family Partner:

We are learning about current US policy on education. I hope you enjoy this activity with me. This assignment is due \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s signature

**OBJECTIVE:**

Students will be able to enrich their evaluation of the US education system by interviewing a student and adult.

#### MATERIALS:

Interview worksheets, pen, \*recording device (optional)

#### THINGS TO REMEMBER:

The purpose of this assignment is to help students understand how other people in their communities feel about several aspects of the US Education system.

#### PROCEDURE:

1. **Select 2 people to interview: One of these people must be your parent or guardian. The other must be a student (doesn’t have to attend Patterson).**
2. **Explain the purpose of the assignment to each person and ask each person to answer the questions below.**
3. **Record their answers on a separate sheet of lined paper. Neatly number each response.**
4. **Complete the reflection activity.**

**\*Extra credit: If you interview someone and record it on your phone, a camera, or another recording device, bring your recording to class for 2 extra credit points.\***

Person interviewed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:**

1. Please describe your own educational experience in as much detail as possible. What did you enjoy about school? Did you find school to be meaningful?
2. In your opinion, what are the biggest strengths of American schools? What are the biggest weaknesses of American schools?
3. How much responsibility should each of the following parties have in a child’s education? Please explain.
4. Student
5. Teacher
6. Parent
7. School
8. School district
9. Government (city, state or federal)
10. How often should students be tested in school? For what purposes should students be given tests?
11. How much choice should families have in where their child attends school? Please explain your reasoning.

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**REFLECTION**

Answer the questions below after completing the interview.

1. How open were your interviewees to answering your questions? Explain.
2. Do you notice any trends in their responses? Explain.

1. Given the responses you received, what advice would you give to our current Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan?

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**HOME-TO-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION:**

Dear Parent or Family Partner:

Please give me your reactions to your child’s work on this activity.

Write YES or NO for each statement.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1. My child understood the homework and was able to complete it.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. My child and I enjoyed the activity.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3. This assignment helped me know what my child is learning in American Government.

Any other comments \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Epstein, J.L., Salinas, K.C., & Van Voorhis, F.E. (2000, revised). Teachers Involve Parents in Schoolwork (TIPS) Interactive Homework. Baltimore: Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships, Johns Hopkins University. Adapted by Ms. Megan Nichols (March 2012).